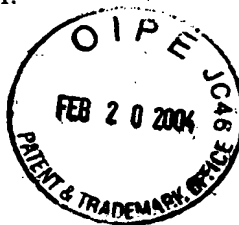


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/806,197
Applicant : NISHIKAWA et al.
Filed : March 27, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1636
Examiner : Nancy S. Vogel

Confirmation No. 3685

Docket No. : 7372/70911
Customer No. : 22242



February 20, 2004

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED
FEB 27 2004

Dear Sir:

Please enter this Amendment, grant the concurrently filed petition for an extension of time, and enter the concurrently filed RCE.

(1) Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

(2) Remarks begin on page 5.